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In re Patent Application of

BERRIE et al.

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November 3, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 5, line 1, change "any preceding claim" to --claim 1--,
Claim 6, line 1, change "any preceding claim" to --claim 1--,
Claim 7, line 1, change "any preceding claim" to --claim 1--,
Claim 11, line 1, change "any one of claims 8 to 10" to --claim 8--,
Claim 12, line 1, change "any one of claims 8 to 11" to --claim 8--,
Claim 17, line 1, change "any one of claims 14 to 16" to --claim 14--.

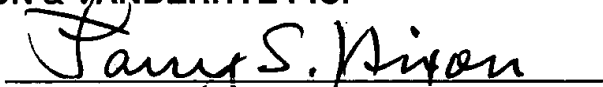
REMARKS

The above amendments are made to place the claims in a more traditional format.

Respectfully submitted,

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